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# AND IN THIS CORNER... DAREDEVIL

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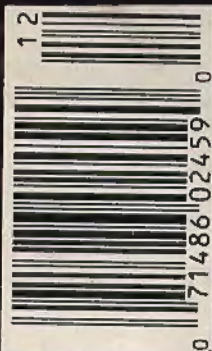
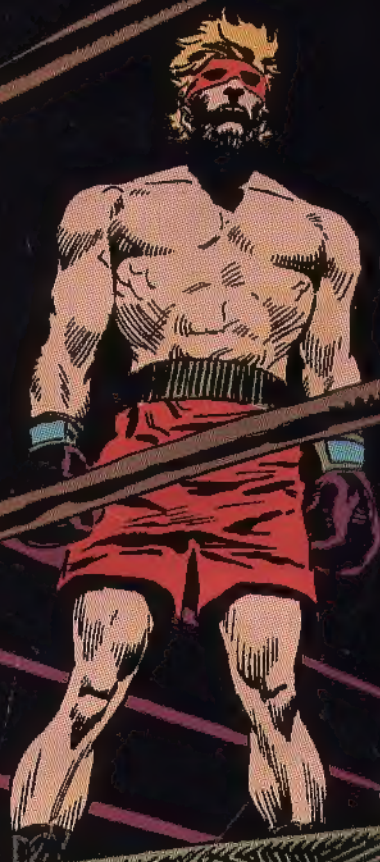
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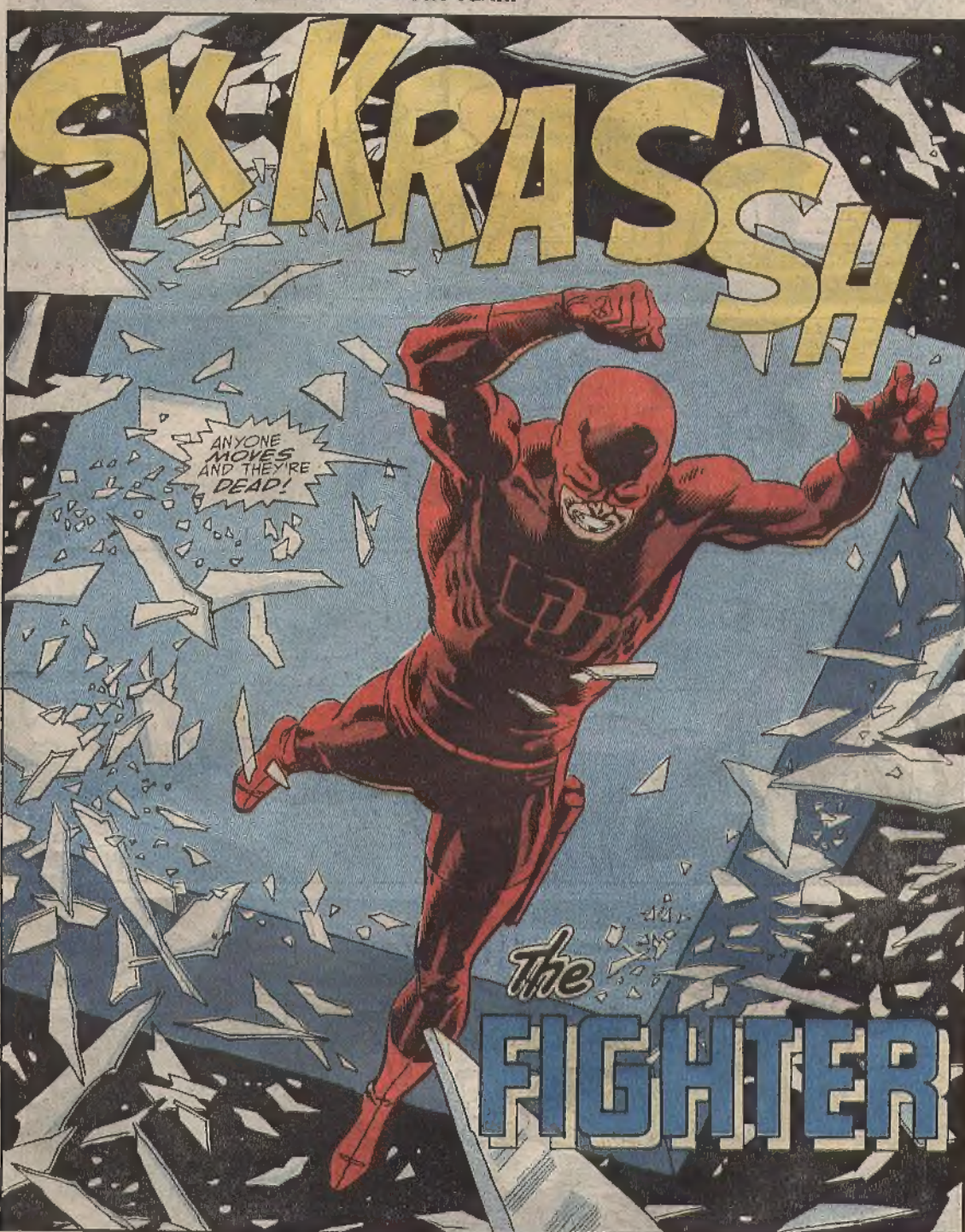
AUTHORITY



WEEK'S  
WHITMAN



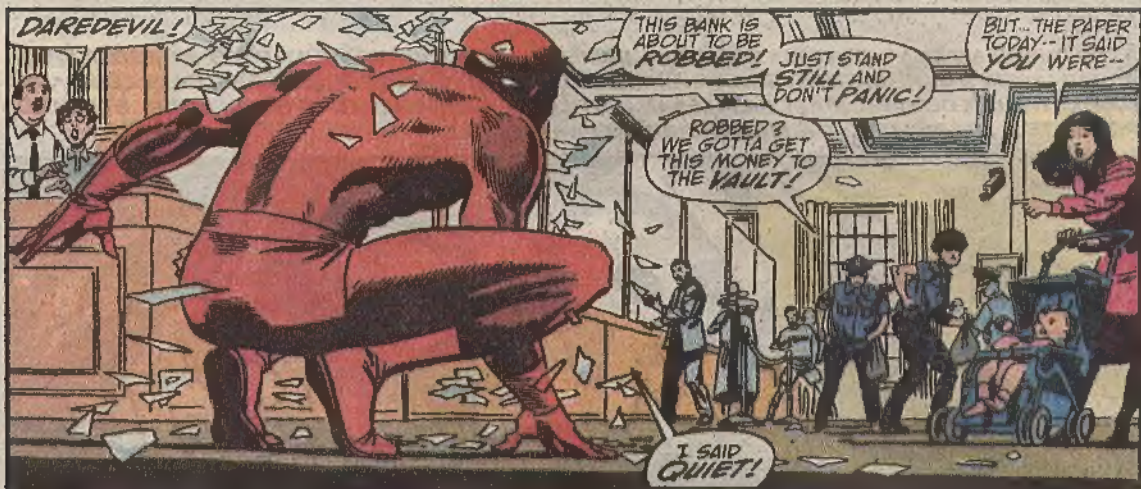
A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT STOLE HIS SIGHT, BUT, INCREDIBLY, IT ENDOWED YOUNG MATT MURDOCK WITH RADAR VISION AND HEIGHTENED SENSES. ARMED ONLY WITH HIS ATHLETIC PROWESS, BILLY CLUB, AND INDOMITABLE COURAGE, MATT BATTLES INJUSTICE AS A CRIMSON-CLAD GLADIATOR! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!



ANN NOCENTI WRITER	LEE WEEKS PENCILS	AL WILLIAMSON INKS	JACK MORELLI LETTERS	MAX SCHEELE COLORS	RALPH MACCHIO TRAINER	TOM DeFALCO CUT-MAN
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DAREDEVIL® Vol. 1, No. 287, December, 1990, (ISSN# 0279-8271) Published by MARVEL COMICS, James E. Gailton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1990 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.00 per copy in the U.S. and \$1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$12.00, Canada \$17.00, and foreign \$24.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. DAREDEVIL (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO DAREDEVIL, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 8TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in the U.S.A.









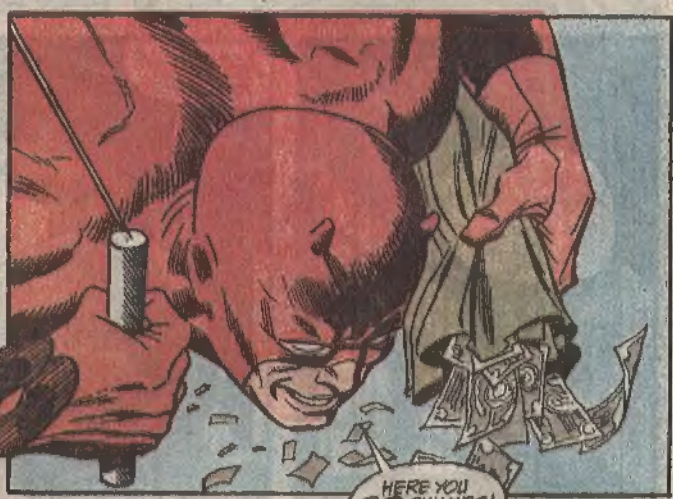
HE'S THE THIEF!  
DAREDEVIL  
KNOCKED OUT ALL  
THE COPS!

DARE-  
DEVIL--  
WHY?

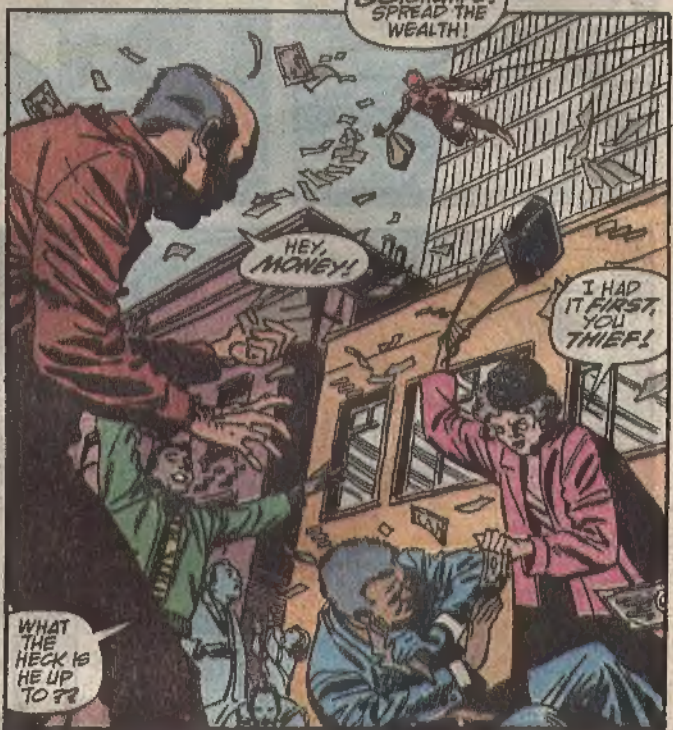


STOP  
HIM! WE  
GOTTA  
FOLLOW  
HIM!

HOW?  
HOW DO  
YOU FOLLOW  
A GUY WHO'S  
SO FAST  
HE'S ALREADY  
GONE?



HERE YOU  
GO CHUMPS!  
SPREAD THE  
WEALTH!

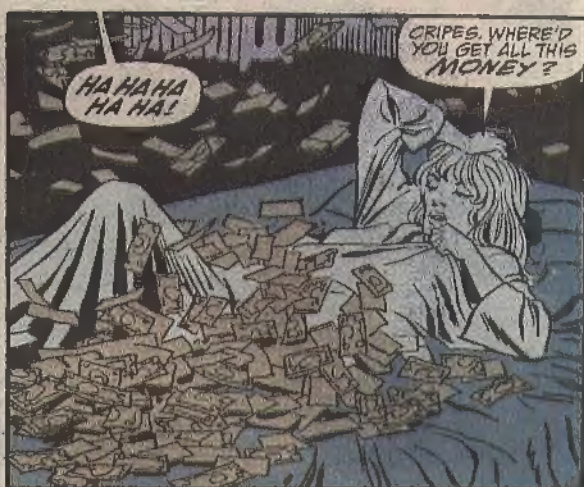


HEY,  
MONEY!

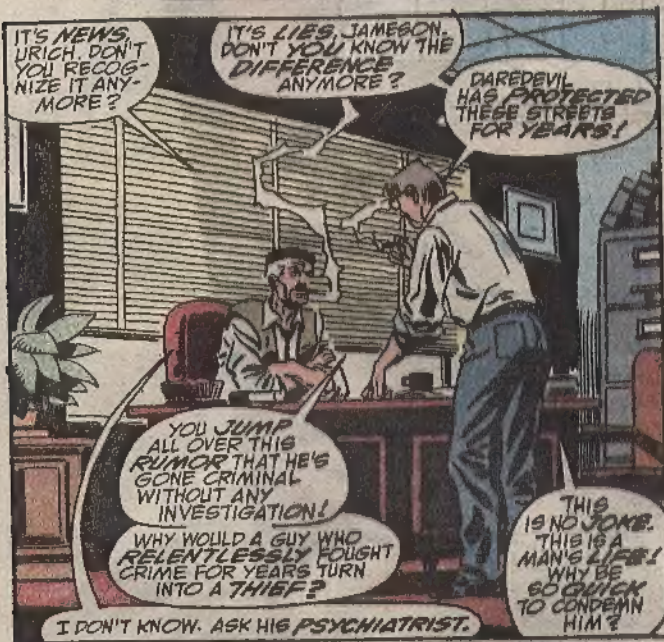
I HAD  
IT FIRST,  
YOU  
THIEF!

WHAT  
THE  
HECK IS  
HE UP  
TO?











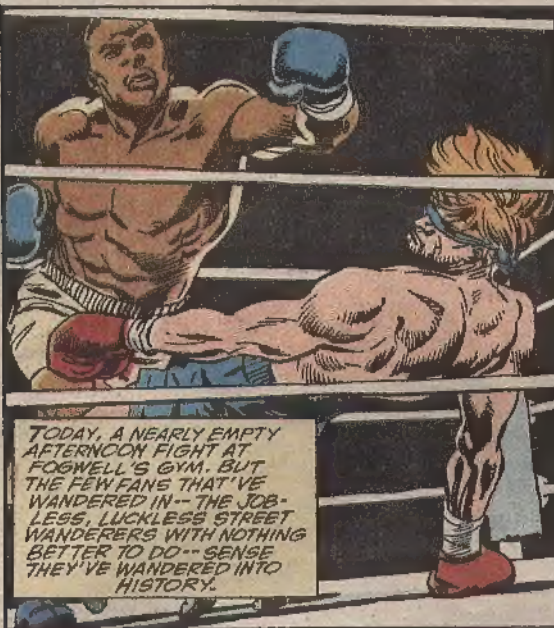
EVERY BOXING  
FAN IS WAITING.

WAITING FOR  
ANOTHER  
JOE LOUIS.

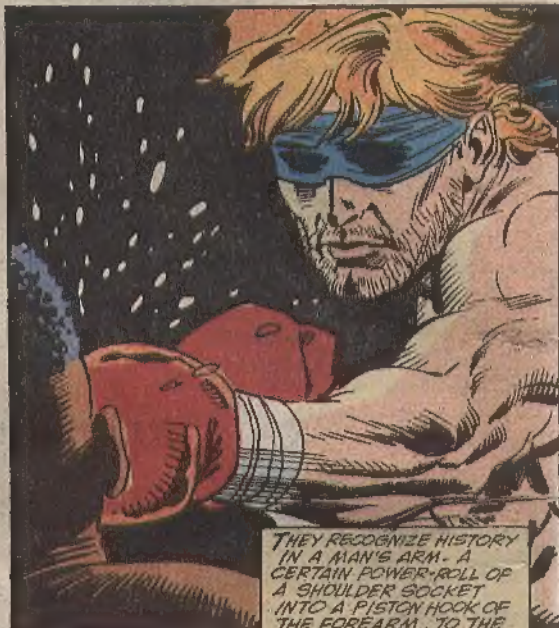
JOE LOUIS, A BEACON  
OF LIGHT WHO ILLUMINATED  
A SWEATY, MEAN-SPIRITED  
LOW-DOWN SPORT...

...TOOK IT FROM A SAD  
COMEDY OF PUNCH DRUNKS  
AND LOSERS, BROKEN  
BONES AND FACES SWELLED  
LIKE OLD MEAT, TOOK IT  
ALL UP OFF THE BLOOD-  
STENCHED MATS OF  
THE RINGS...

...UP HIGH TO  
JOIN THE CRIES  
OF THE FANS  
THAT ALWAYS  
BELIEVED  
FIGHTING TO  
BE THE SWEET-  
EST SPORT OF  
ALL.



TODAY, A NEARLY EMPTY  
AFTERNOON FIGHT AT  
FOGWELL'S GYM. BUT  
THE FEW FANS THAT'VE  
WANDERED IN-- THE JOB-  
LESS, LUCKLESS STREET  
WANDERERS WITH NOTHING  
BETTER TO DO-- SENSE  
THEY'VE WANDERED INTO  
HISTORY.



THEY RECOGNIZE HISTORY  
IN A MAN'S ARM. A  
CERTAIN POWER-ROLL OF  
A SHOULDER SOCKET  
INTO A PISTON HOOK OF  
THE FOREARM, TO THE  
SPRY WRIST THAT  
FLICKS A SURE FIST...



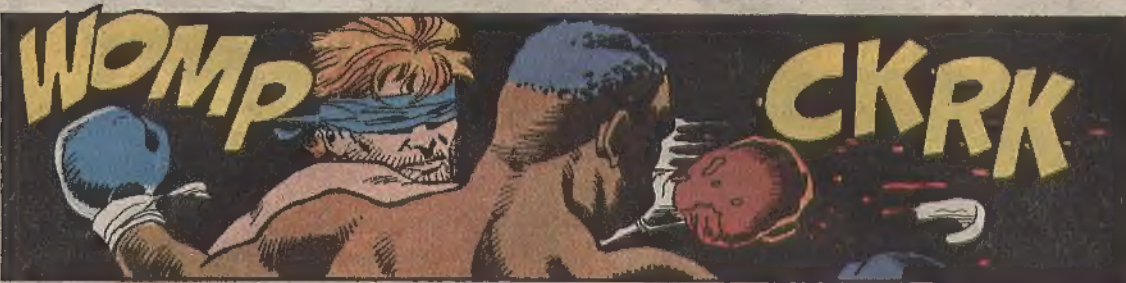
THE CROWD PERKS UP,  
STOPS ITS INCESSANT  
SMOKING, HOLDS ITS  
BREATH... AND ARE  
SOON ON THEIR FEET  
-- "IT'S A FIGHTER--  
A FIGHTER!"



THAT LEFT, CHARLIE--  
DID YOU SEE  
HIS LEFT?

I SEE IT, I  
SEE IT!

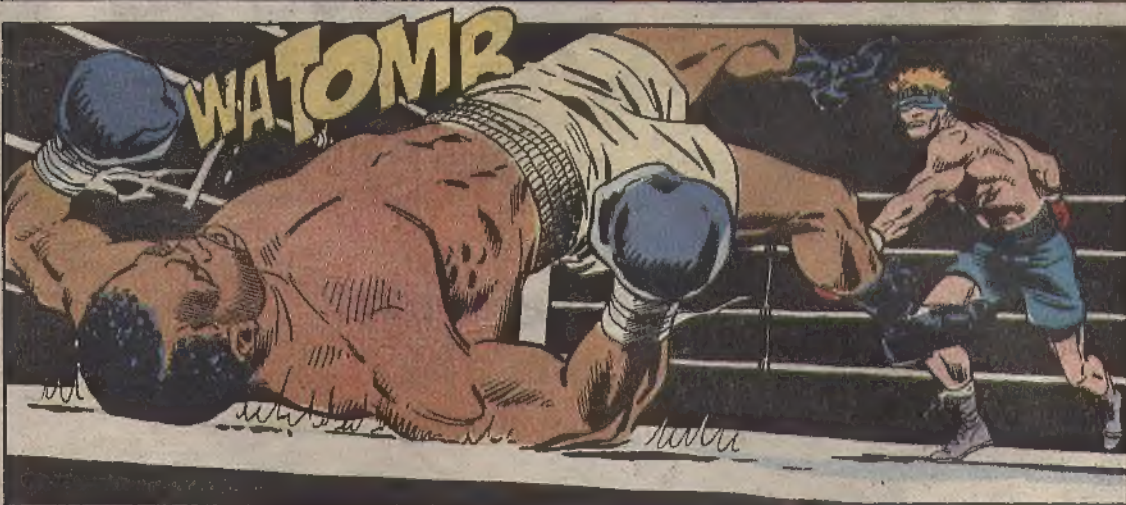
STREET  
STYLE--



IT'S  
OVER!

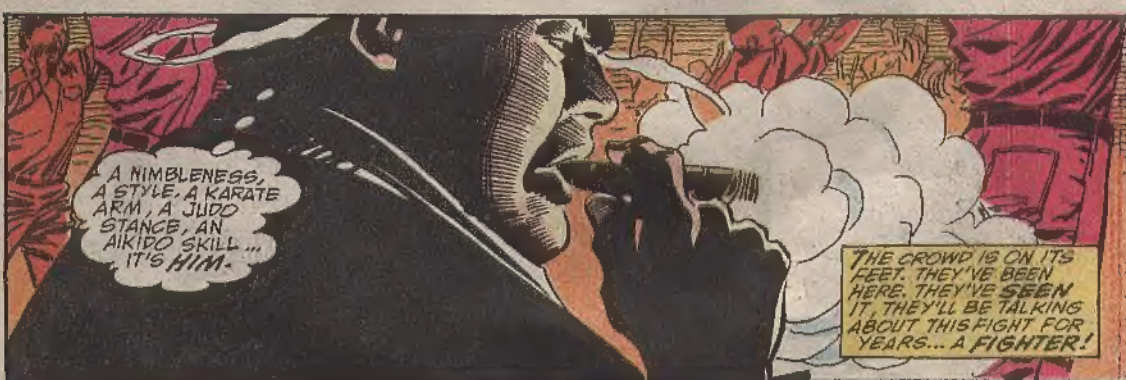
STREET  
STYLE, WITH  
A REFINED  
ANGER...

FINISH  
HIM!

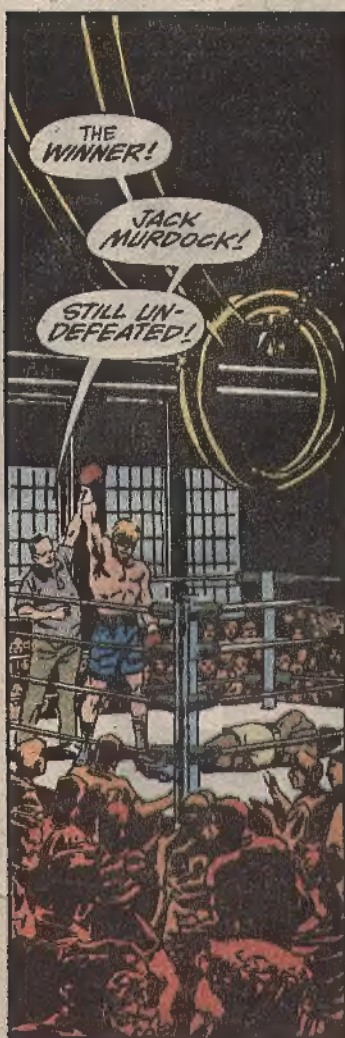


A NIMBLENESS,  
A STYLE, A KARATE  
ARM, A JUDD  
STANCE, AN  
AIKIDO SKILL...  
IT'S HIM.

THE CROWD IS ON ITS  
FEET. THEY'VE BEEN  
HERE. THEY'VE SEEN  
IT. THEY'LL BE TALKING  
ABOUT THIS FIGHT FOR  
YEARS... A FIGHTER!







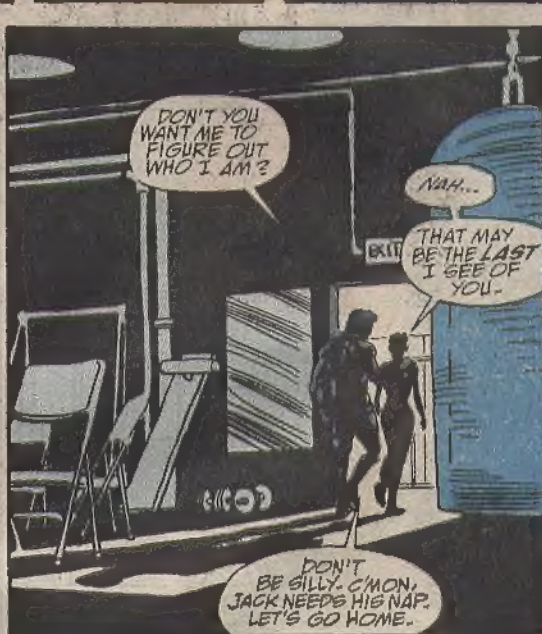
ONE MAN, A MAN WHO OTHERS CALL KINGPIN, REMAINS UNRUFFLED...



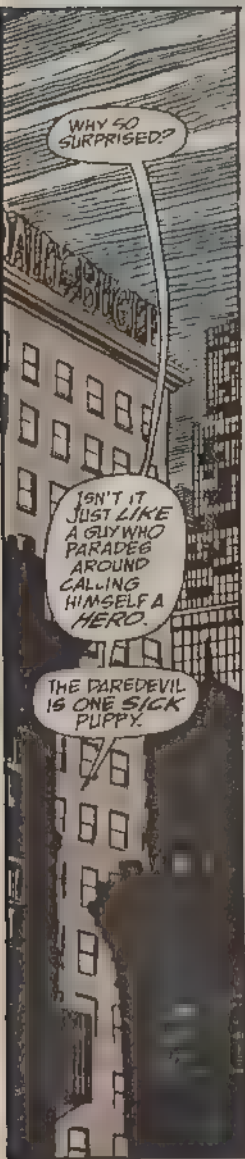
HE'S BACK. BUT WHAT IS HE ATTEMPTING TO ACCOMPLISH?







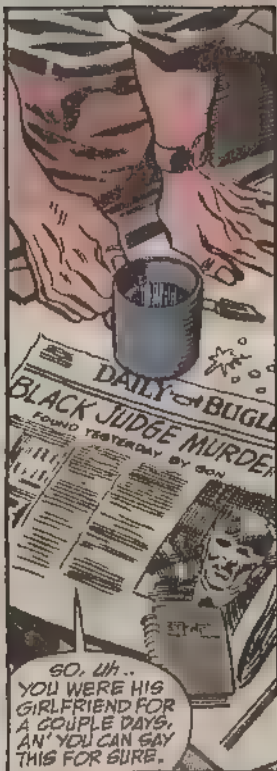




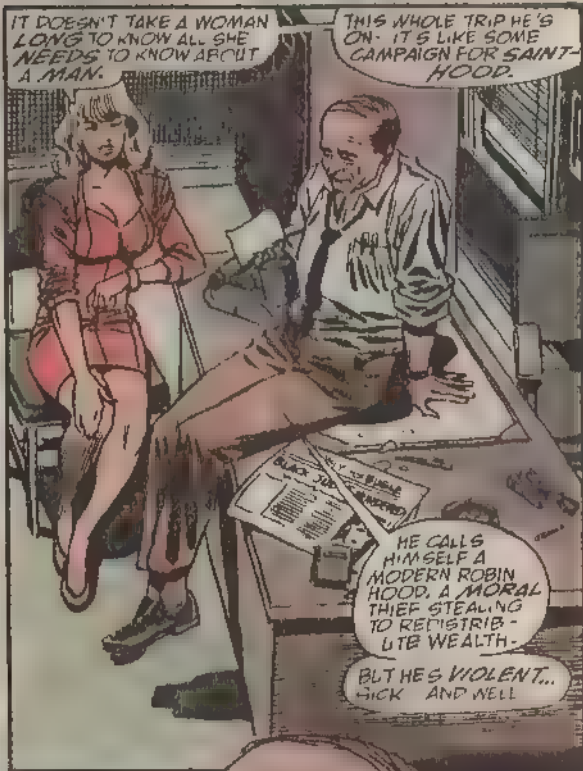
WHY SO SURPRISED?

ISN'T IT JUST LIKE A GUY WHO PARADES AROUND CALLING HIMSELF A HERO.

THE PAREDEVIL IS ONE SICK PUPPY.



SO, UH... YOU WERE HIS GIRLFRIEND FOR A COUPLE DAYS. AN' YOU CAN SAY THIS FOR SURE.



IT DOESN'T TAKE A WOMAN LONG TO KNOW ALL SHE NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT A MAN.

THIS WHOLE TRIP HE'S ON - IT'S LIKE SOME CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT-HOOD.

HE CALLS HIMSELF A MODERN ROBIN HOOD. A MORAL THIEF STEALING TO REDISTRIBUTE WEALTH - BUT HE'S VIOLENT... FICK AND WELL



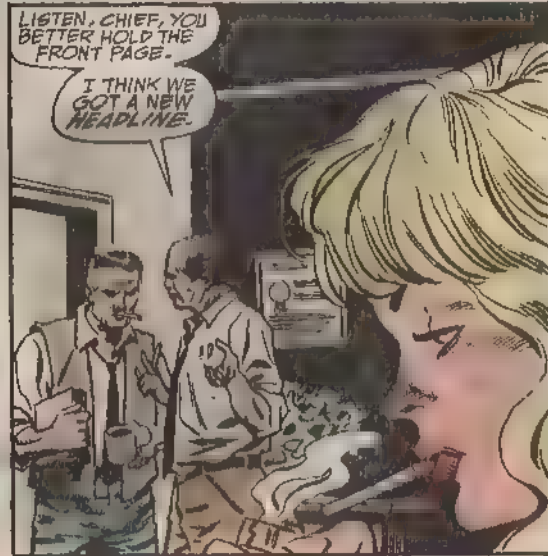
..HE'S NOT MUCH OF A MAN.

GULP

UH OH I SEE



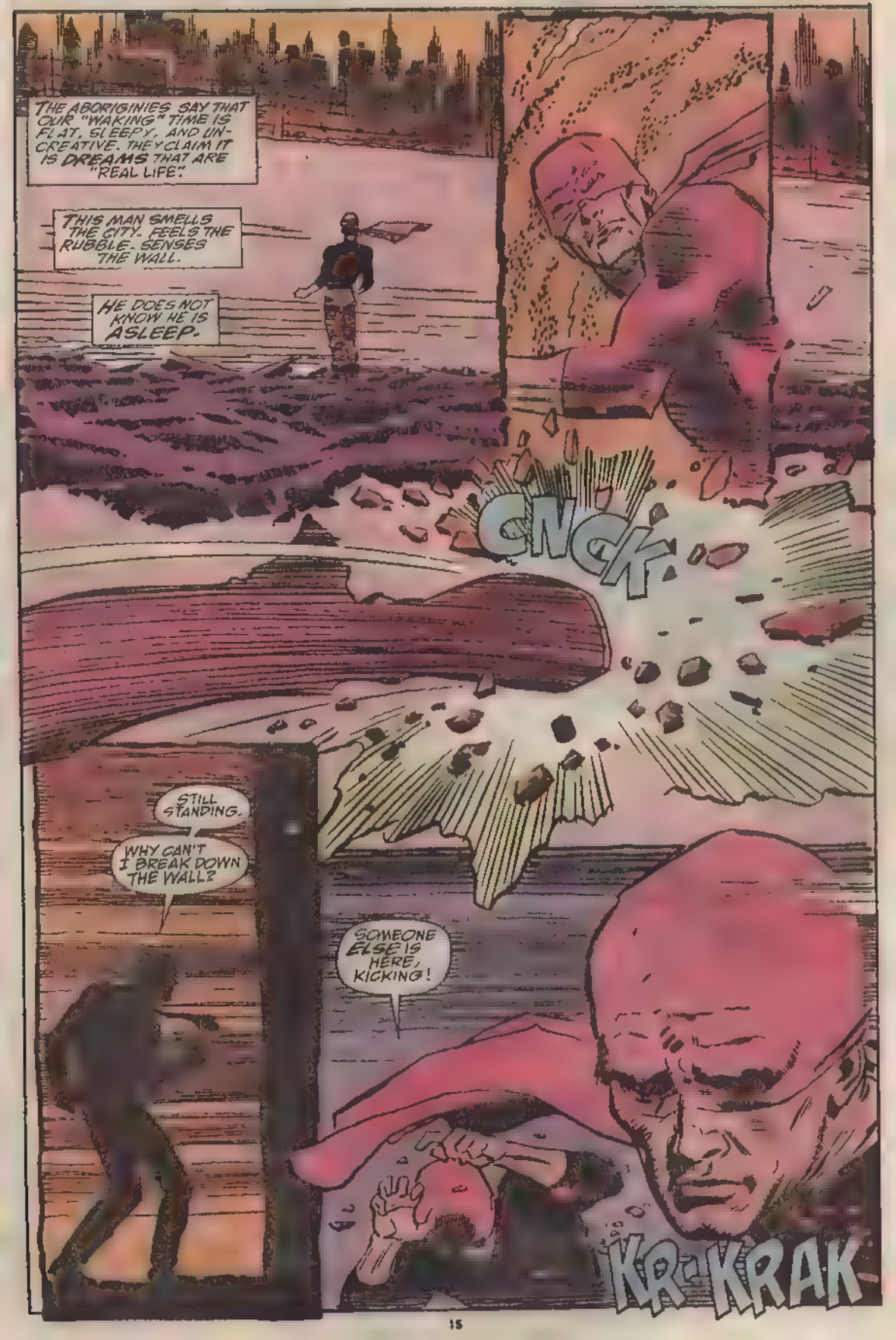
JAMESON! C'MERE A SECOND.



LISTEN, CHIEF, YOU BETTER HOLD THE FRONT PAGE.

I THINK WE GOT A NEW HEADLINE.





THE ABORIGINES SAY THAT  
OUR "WAKING" TIME IS  
FLAT, SLEEPY, AND UN-  
CREATIVE. THEY CLAIM IT  
IS DREAMS THAT ARE  
"REAL LIFE."

THIS MAN SMELLS  
THE CITY. FEELS THE  
RUBBLE. SENSES  
THE WALL.

HE DOES NOT  
KNOW HE IS  
ASLEEP.

CNCK

STILL  
STANDING.

WHY CAN'T  
I BREAK DOWN  
THE WALL?

SOMEONE  
ELSE IS  
HERE,  
KICKING!

KR-KRAK





ELEKTRA!

HELLO MATT.

STILL HITTING THINGS?



YOU TOO YOU'RE STILL HITTING



IDIOTS!

RAGE ONLY TAKES YOU SO FAR



YOU TWO ARE THE SAME KIND OF ANGRY IDIOTS.



THE ONLY WAY TO GET YOUR ATTENTION IS TO HIT YOU.

NOW LOOK. THE WALL IS STILL THERE.

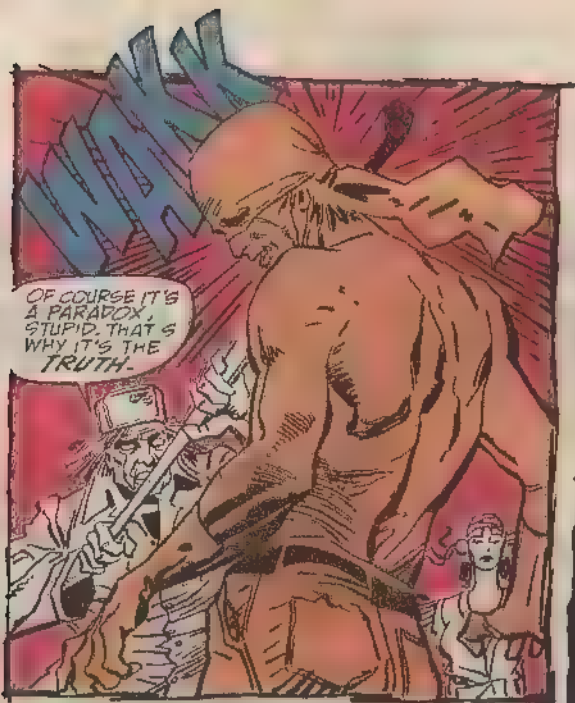
TRY AGAIN... BUT WITHOUT RAGE. WITHOUT ANGER. HIT THE WALL WITH KINDNESS.

BUT TEACHER, HOW?

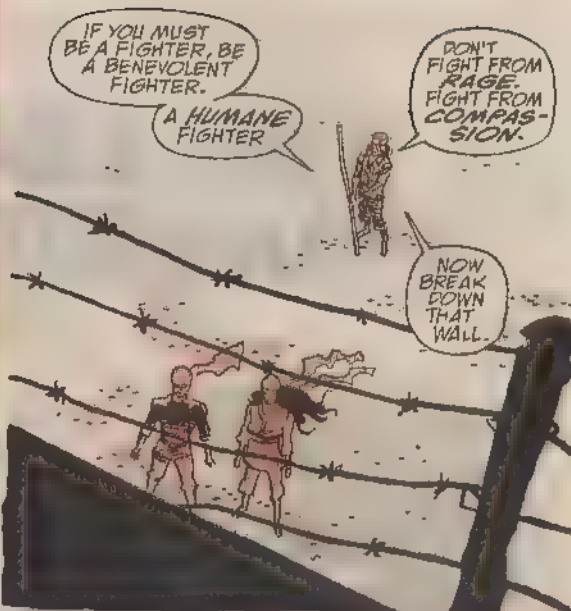
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. HOW CAN WE HIT KINDLY?

IT'S A PARADOX!





OF COURSE IT'S  
A PARADOX.  
STUPID. THAT'S  
WHY IT'S THE  
TRUTH.

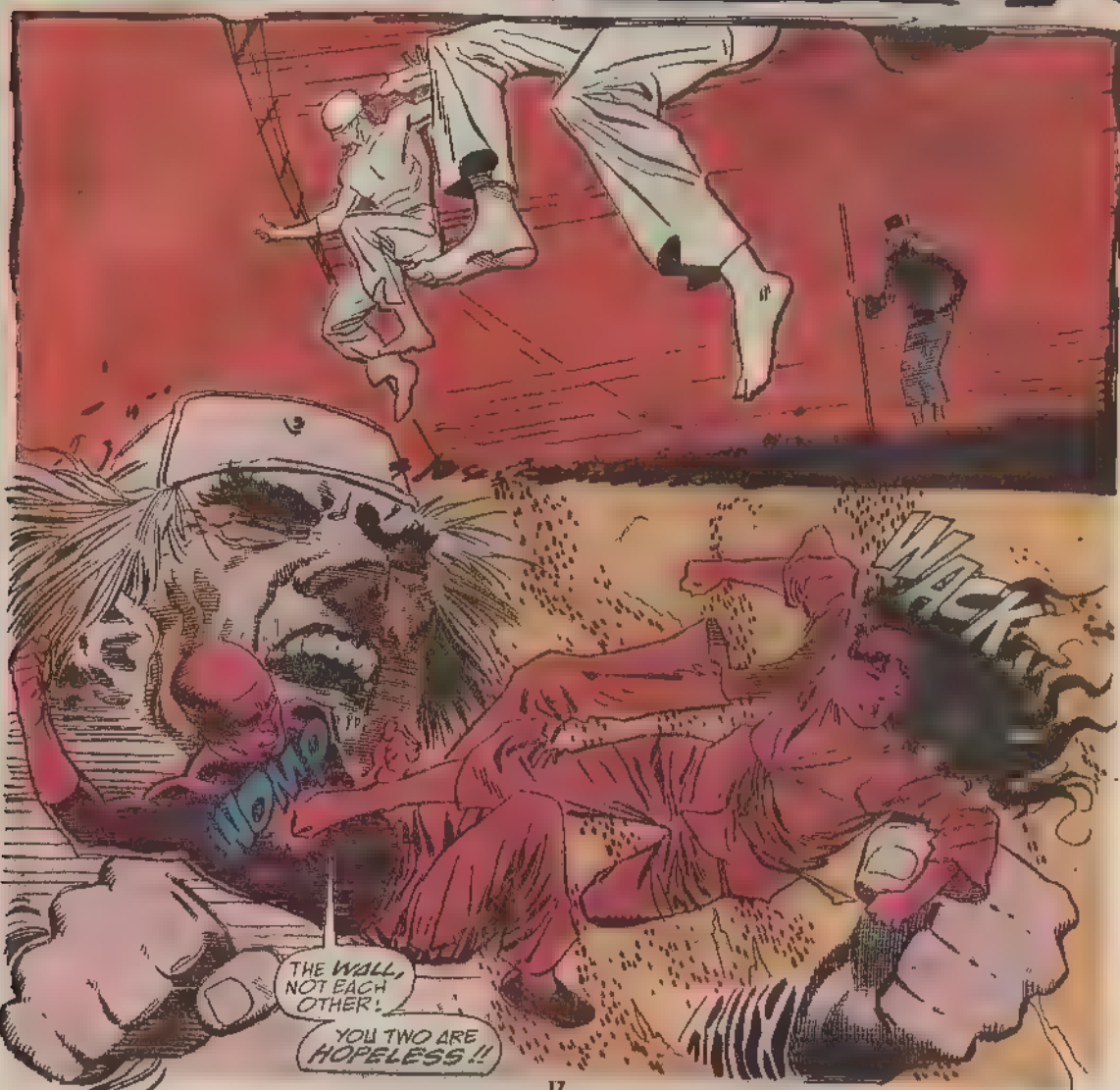


IF YOU MUST  
BE A FIGHTER, BE  
A BENEVOLENT  
FIGHTER.

A HUMANE  
FIGHTER

DON'T  
FIGHT FROM  
RAGE.  
FIGHT FROM  
COMPAS-  
SION.

NOW  
BREAK  
DOWN  
THAT  
WALL.



THE WALL,  
NOT EACH  
OTHER!

YOU TWO ARE  
HOPELESS!!





NO, DADDY,  
I WON'T BE  
A FIGHTER.

I WON'T.  
I PROMISE.

407



OH

A DREAM.  
I WAS LEARN-  
ING HOW TO  
FIGHT

BUT MY  
FATHER SAID  
I WAS TOO  
YOUNG  
NOT TO.

AND THAT  
HE'D  
BE  
THE  
ONE  
TO  
TEACH  
ME.



YVLA

GONE.  
I THINK SHE'S  
JEALOUS  
OF MY  
DREAMS.

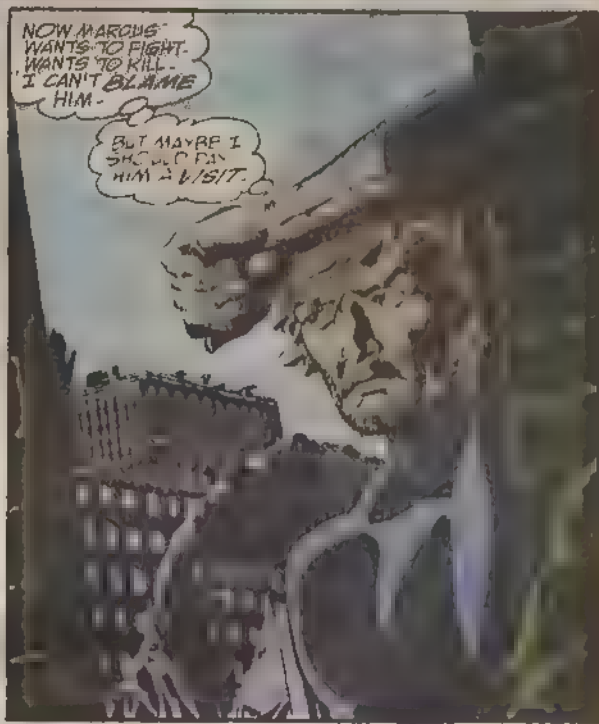
THE FIRST  
PLACE  
THE FIRST THING  
I'LL DO WITH MY  
FIGHT MONEY IS  
RENT HER A  
REAL APART  
MENT.

SOME KIND OF  
THINGS AND THAT  
I'LL BE THE  
ONE TO  
TEACH  
HER  
TO FIGHT IT



REMINDS ME OF  
HIM JUST FIGHTING  
WITH HIS DAD. HIS  
DAD TOLD HIM NOT  
TO FIGHT.  
TOO.

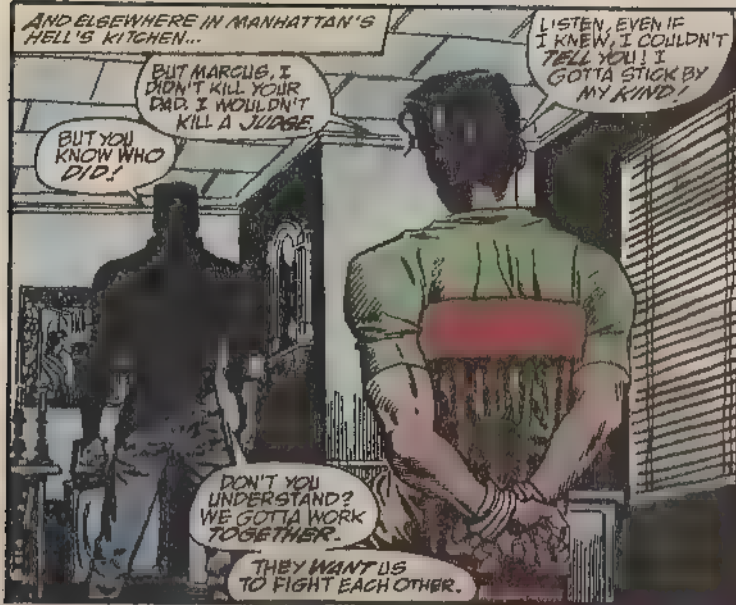
LAST THING  
THE JUDGE  
SAID BEFORE  
THEY KILLED  
HIM



NOW MARCUS  
WANTS TO FIGHT.  
WANTS TO KILL.  
I CAN'T BLAME  
HIM.

BUT MAYBE I  
SHOULD PAY  
HIM A VISIT.





AND ELSEWHERE IN MANHATTAN'S HELL'S KITCHEN...

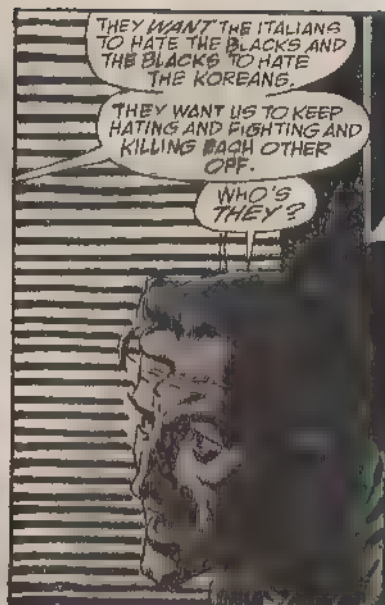
BUT YOU KNOW WHO DID!

BUT MARCUS, I DIDN'T KILL YOUR DAD. I WOULDN'T KILL A JUDGE.

LISTEN, EVEN IF I KNEW, I COULDN'T TELL YOU! I GOTTA STICK BY MY KIND!

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? WE GOTTA WORK TOGETHER.

THEY WANT US TO FIGHT EACH OTHER.



THEY WANT THE ITALIANS TO HATE THE BLACKS AND THE BLACKS TO HATE THE KOREANS.

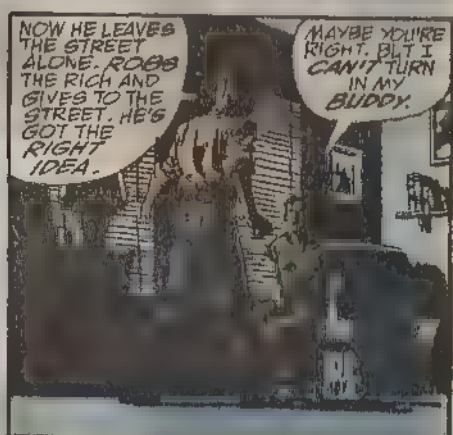
THEY WANT US TO KEEP HATING AND FIGHTING AND KILLING EACH OTHER OFF.

WHO'S THEY?



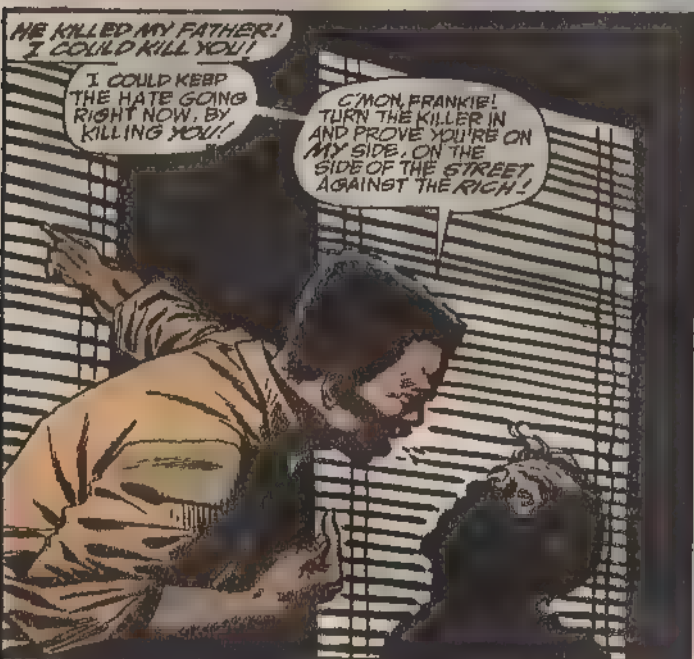
I DON'T KNOW... THE RICH... THE POWERFUL, I GUESS.

LOOK AT DAREDEVIL. HE USED TO FIGHT STREET CRIME.



NOW HE LEAVES THE STREET ALONE. ROBB THE RICH AND GIVES TO THE STREET. HE'S GOT THE RIGHT IDEA.

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT I CAN'T TURN IN MY BUDDY.



HE KILLED MY FATHER! I COULD KILL YOU!

I COULD KEEP THE HATE GOING RIGHT NOW, BY KILLING YOU!

C'MON, FRANKIE! TURN THE KILLER IN AND PROVE YOU'RE ON MY SIDE, ON THE SIDE OF THE STREET AGAINST THE RICH!



IT'S TIME WE FOUGHT THE REAL ENEMY!

I GUESS. I DON'T KNOW MARCUS, I'M CONFUSED...

TELL ME WHERE THE KILLER'S HIDING. NOW!



ACROSS TOWN...

CLICK! HELLO? THIS IS FOGGY NELSON. I'M EITHER SLEEPING OR AT THE LAW LIBRARY.

I HATE ANSWERING MACHINES...

SOON...

FOGGY?

BEN! BEN URICH! BEEN AWHILE!

OH.

YUP BUT I FIGURED YOU WERE THE MAN WHO MAY STILL BE IN TOUCH WITH MATT MURDOCK.

NO WE HAVEN'T BEEN FRIENDS FOR A WHILE.

BUT FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK ABOUT MATT...

I'M WORKING ON HIS CASE RIGHT NOW.

A WHILE BACK, MATT'S LIFE WAS RUINED. UNPAID BILLS, BACK TAXES, ACCOUNTS SEIZED--ANYWAY, HE LOST HIS LICENSE TO PRACTICE LAW.

WELL, I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHO DID IT BUT THE WHOLE THING WAS A SET-UP.

I'VE SINCE RECTIFIED WITH THE IRS, THE GOVERNMENT, BANKS, THE LAW BOARD...

NOW ALL I NEED IS MATT MURDOCK. YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?

I MIGHT.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD ON MAKING MATT'S NAME LOOK GOOD AGAIN.

A BIT OF AN OBSESSION?

I GOT MY REASONS.



AN ABANDONED  
BUILDING ON  
45TH STREET...

JUST A  
STUPID OL' BLACK  
MAN. WHO'LL  
MISS ONE MORE  
OL' DEAD BLACK  
GUY.. ?

NOBODY.

WHOZAT ?!

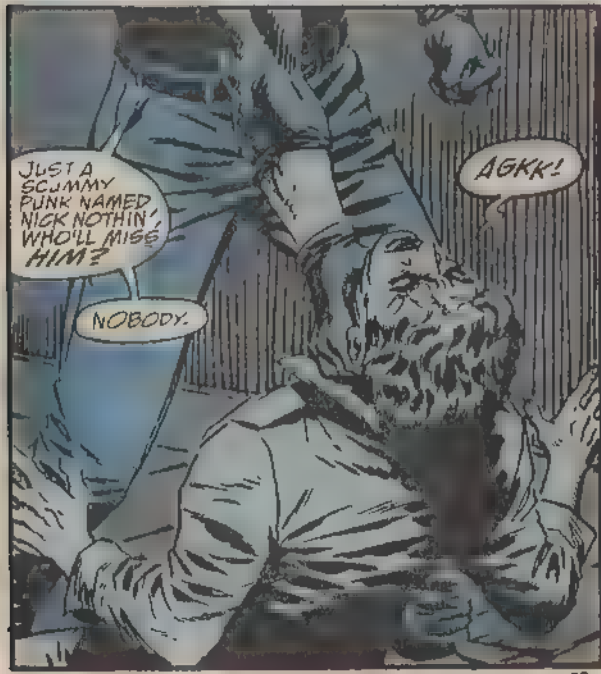
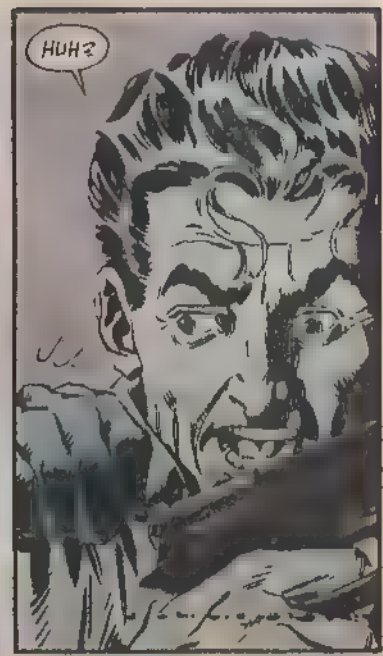
FRANKIE ?

FRANKIE ?  
THAT YOU ?

SKRITCH









I FIGHT  
WITH  
KINDNESS.

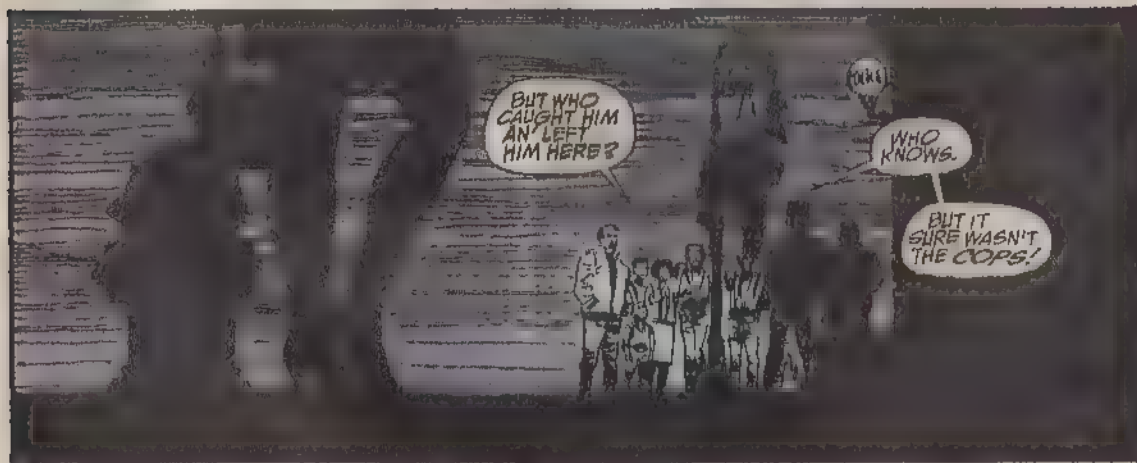
I AM THE  
BLIND BOXER,  
THE HUMANE  
FIGHTER.

IT'S A LONG  
WAY TO DAYLIGHT,  
NICK NOBODY.

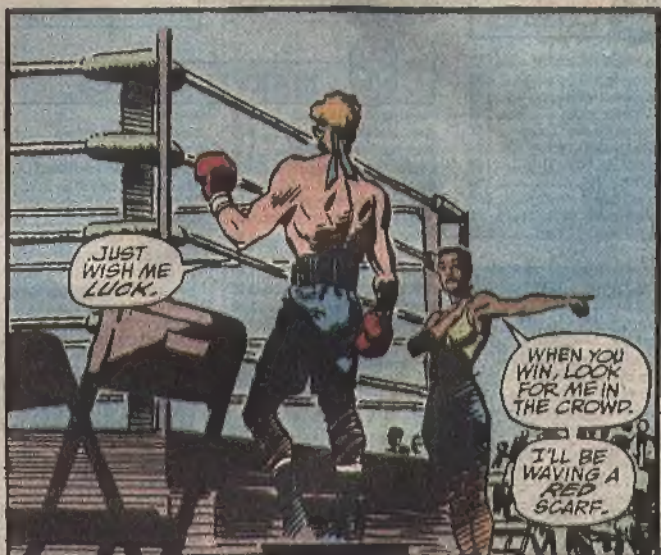
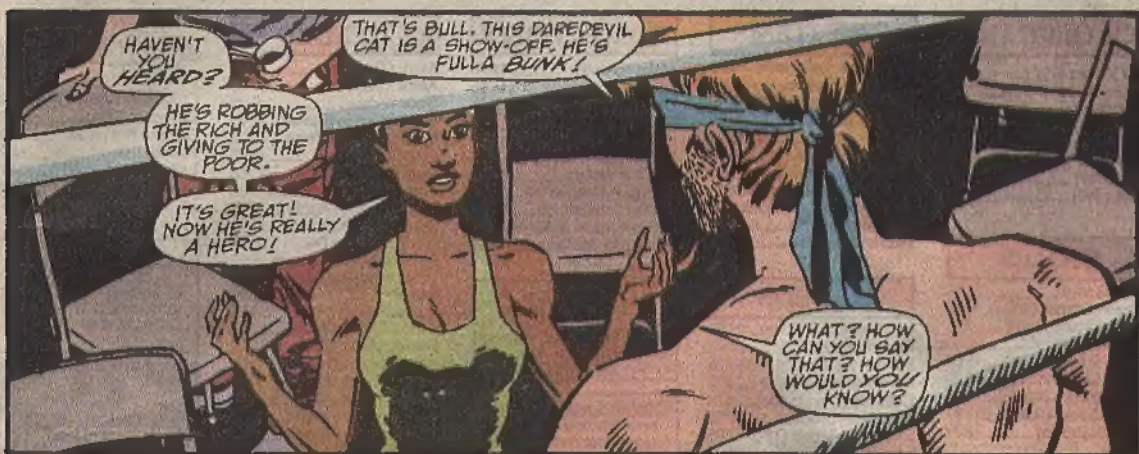
SOON,  
ELSE-  
WHERE.

# JUDGE KILLER

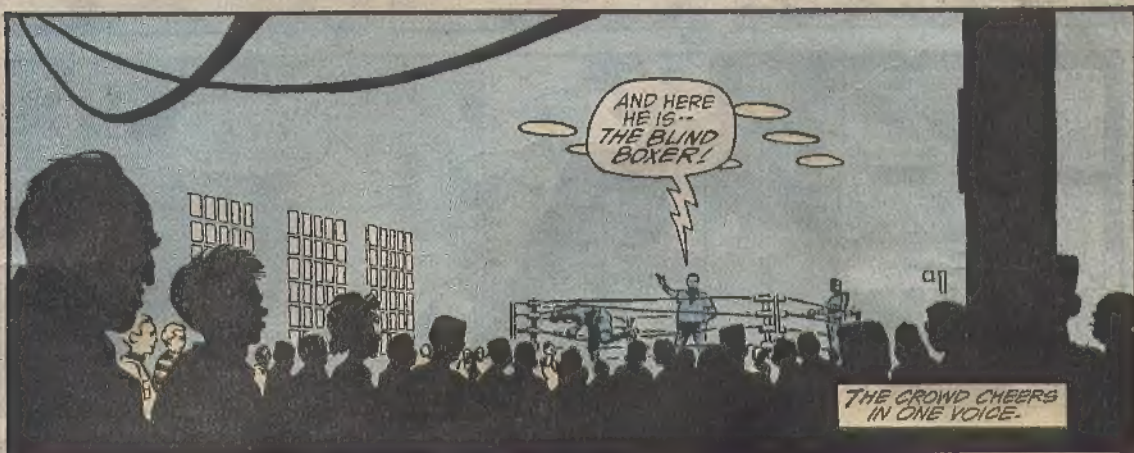
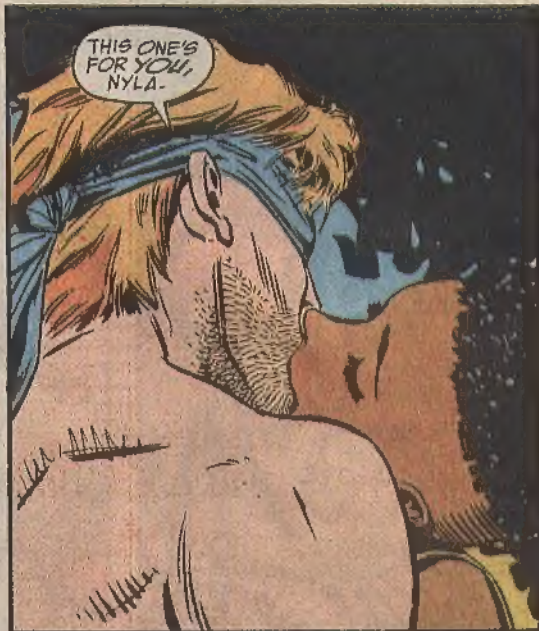
IS HE  
DEAD?











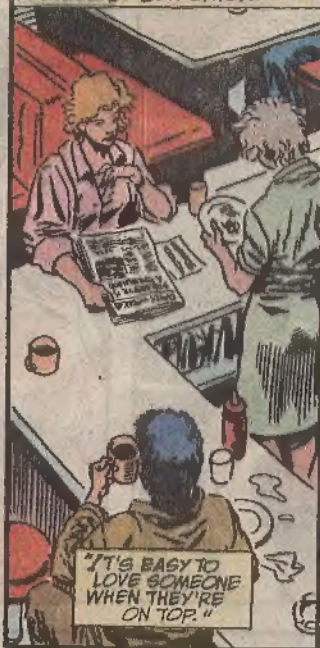


AND ALL OVER THE STREETS OF NEW YORK, THE LATEST DAILY BUGLE HAS HIT THE STANDS...

MOST PEOPLE READ THE FRONT PAGE...



BUT A FEW FIND THE EDITORIAL BURIED IN THE BACK PAGES, A PIECE BY BEN URICH...



"AND JUST AS EASY TO KNOCK DOWN A HERO."



"DAREDEVIL HAS BEEN NEW YORK'S PROTECTOR FOR MANY YEARS, AND THIS CITY SHOULD STAND BY HIM."

"CAN'T WE HAVE FAITH, THAT EVEN IF HE APPEARS TO HAVE TURNED THIEF, IT'S FOR SOME HEROIC REASON?"



WHAT? THEY'RE CHEERING ME? WHY?

I'M A THIEF!  
I'M NO HERO!



STUPID PEOPLE!  
DON'T YOU GET IT??

I'LL SHOW  
YOU I'M NO  
HERO!



TO BE CONTINUED!



# DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

RALPH MACCHIO: EDITOR—MICHAEL HEISLER: ASSISTANT EDITOR  
C/O MARVEL COMICS—387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH—NEW YORK, NEW YORK—10016

ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS: ALL LETTERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS THOUGH WE WILL WITHHOLD THAT INFO BY REQUEST

Dear Ralph and Mike,

The recent issues of DAREDEVIL have been excellent (issues #274-281). In fact, Daredevil has become my favorite Marvel comic. The stories transcend the usual "superhero story." Of course we have a masked hero fighting various super beings like Mephisto and Ultron, but that isn't the major theme. Mephisto is a symbol of all evil, and we go deep into Matt Murdock's psyche and his motives for fighting.

The stories are also about how we humans treat each other and our own potential for good or evil. I don't know if I'm making much sense here. It isn't easy expressing yourself in a foreign language. Anyway, Ann, you're writing one terrific story. Daredevil is the only book where we can see other versions of Marvel's characters. Your versions of Ultron, the Inhumans, Mephisto and the Silver Surfer are nothing short of spectacular!

And I haven't forgotten about the two artists, John Romita, Jr. and Al Williamson are producing their best work ever. Especially like the way they are drawing Mephisto. Don't ever let the art team go away. This is the best DAREDEVIL since Frank Miller, and Marvel's best book right now.

Øyvind A. Holen  
Lindebergsgaten 16 A  
068 OSLO 10  
Norway

Well, first off, Øyvind, we want to tell you that we think you did a fine job of expressing your thoughts in a foreign language. Second, as far as DAREDEVIL having different versions of Marvel characters, that's not exactly correct. You see, Marvel prides itself on having a coherent, consistent universe. (That's not to say that from time to time we don't goof.) The Mephisto and Ultron that appear in DAREDEVIL are the same characters that appear in other books. What is different is the interpretation of the characters by the writer and artist. By not limiting our creative people to superstrict guidelines we are able to get stories in which many different sides of more well-established characters can be shown, making them more well-rounded and interesting.

Dear Miss Nocenti and Mr. Romita,

My first encounter with Daredevil was the "Born Again" trade paperback, which I read just over two years ago. I was extremely impressed with Mr. Miller's work and immediately started buying DAREDEVIL every month. I was disappointed. I felt that after Frank Miller the storylines were dull and boring.

Recently, however, I realized that this was not the case. I had been expecting a typical comic book, with heroes and villains and fight scenes. I suddenly understood that this was not the direction of Daredevil under these storylines. Something else was happening. The stories were about one man struggling with his failures, losing his ambitions, his hopes, his dreams.

Once I found this I re-read through my entire collection (which dated back to the beginning of the Typhoid Mary saga). I found each issue better than the last, building up to a crescendo of brilliance. In each issue the development of the characters and the insight into Daredevil's thoughts has been incredible. Even the inclusion of such crossovers as "Inferno" and "Acts of Vengeance" was seamless and served to compliment the ongoing story line rather than destroy it.

Matt Murdock was finally coming to terms with

his failures and spoke of returning to Hell's Kitchen when Miss Nocenti played her masterstroke. He has skirmished with Mephisto before but never at this level. Having Daredevil fall into Hell is a fantastic idea. It is not a Hell of classical or biblical thought but a new subtle, psychological Hell. This is a Hell where instead of physical discomfort, it is the mind that is teased and tormented. These are probably the best stories I have ever read.

I must at this point congratulate Mr. Romita on his excellent art. When I first started reading I thought it was terrible. This was due to being raised on Mael'Arlande and Adams art. I now recognize the excellence of this art. The muddy and shadowy penciling compliments the stories perfectly.

I look forward to the next issue.

Nick Kilba  
16 Parkwood Chase  
Lynn, Cheshire  
WA3 0NQ  
England

Dear Ann, John, Al and Ralph,

DAREDEVIL keeps inching its way up my list of "Can't wait till the next issue comes out-gotta-read-it-first" comics. Issue #281 is no exception. From that amazing title ("Heaven is Knowing Who You Are" which I believe is true) through to that final page splash, this issue had more than the average share of thought provoking dialogue/situations/characterization. The idea that Heaven or Hell is not a place you visit or live in, but rather a state of being that each person chooses, is not really a new idea. But it's a good idea and I enjoyed seeing it presented so well in this issue of DAREDEVIL. I was disappointed to see so few letters of support in the letters page for the innovative ways that Ann is presenting Daredevil both as a hero and as an analogy or metaphor (or symbol?) for all of people-kind.

The artwork is just plain dynamic. It's beautiful the way John's and Al's work seems to mesh so well. In fact, it's the artwork that initially attracted me to this series. Fortunately, the story is keeping pace with the visuals and in places even surpassing them.

The lettering? I hardly notice it... which is the way it generally should be. The coloring has been nicely subdued... not overpowering. Good stuff.

John Dennis  
78 Sumney Lane  
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Glad you like what's going on John. As for readers' support, check out the rest of the letters on this page and the last few pages.

Dear Ann,

Your present storyline brings home very loud and clear an important point: Daredevil belongs embodied in Matt Murdock and located in Hell's Kitchen.

This has not been the complete character that has been portrayed over the past several issues. The richness of the hero is derived from his ascension from the shadows of a crime-riddled, inner city neighborhood and from the limitations of his own physical handicap.

Certainly, Daredevil's current bout with Mephisto symbolizes a struggle on a far deeper level with a much more formidable opponent—Evil incarnate. Our champion is only half a hero

in rights. The other half is a blind ex-attorney struggling to put his life and the lives of those around him in order. Both the hero and the man are bled—like Lady Justice. The two are one and Hell's Kitchen is their (his) battleground, courtroom and home.

I am grateful for our hero's sojourn away from Hell's Kitchen. The duel with Mephisto should strengthen Daredevil and prepare him for his return home. His meeting with the Silver Surfer brings together two kindred spirits. Much, then, stands to be gained from this departure from the DAREDEVIL milieu.

Most important, however, is the courage and imagination that characterizes your experiment with the Man Without Fear. Your willingness to take risks makes this title and its hero much more alive and dynamic. Your departure from the norm only underscores the strength of this character.

It's time now for him to return home strengthened.

Jan C. Childress  
82 Pierrepont Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Ann,

Issue #281 of DAREDEVIL was another interesting issue. It's not a bit puzzling. Symbolism is fine when used as an underlying theme but using it as the main focus of the story is something that is beginning to wear thin in this title.

Number Nine, Karnak, and Goggin all appeared in some form of undress and even the Silver Surfer made an appearance in his silvery nakedness whereas Daredevil faced his perils in full dress. What all of that means I don't know but I found it annoying enough to distract from the story. When I suggested that the Inhumans needed a little more exposure this *wasn't* what I had in mind.

Metaphorical symbolism aside, I have to love your style of writing. With lines like, "Then they met her. An angel with horns or devil with wings. Or human with both," how could I not enjoy this title?

Once the Number Nine/Inhuman storyline concludes I feel that we will see a return of the Matt Murdock persona. Readers clamoring for the return of comfortable, supportive cast such as Karen Page, Foggy Nelson, and even the Kingpin and Typhoid Mary may be getting more than they bargained for.

While I also look forward to Hornhead's return to his regular stomping grounds, I look back over your tenure on this title and have fond memories of tales of unexpected, epic proportion!

Charles R. Navinskie  
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By now Charles, you can see that Daredevil has indeed returned to his old stomping grounds, but not in the way that anybody expected.

Hey, who is that guy in the Daredevil costume, anyway? And what's his connection to that big fat guy in the audience? Find out in one month as Ann Nocenti, Lee Weeks, and Al Williamson present "THE STUDENT!"